Commencement of Exploration of Oil in West Bengal

1628. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1048 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 1999 and state:

(a) the details of the blocks in West Bengal offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy for exploration;

(b) the bids received, so far and status of finalisation of bid and commencement of exploration; and

(c) the details of work programme, resource allocation under Ninth Plan by ONGC for oil as well as Coal Bed Methane exploration in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Two onland blocks in the State of West Bengal have been put on offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). These blocks are as under:—

PA-ONN-97/1

WB-ONN-97/1

No bids were received for the above mentioned two block in West Bengal.

(c) The exploration programme of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in West Bengal under the Ninth Plan period envisages 168 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D and 768 GLK of 3D Seismic surveys and also retesting of well Ichapur-I.

ONGC has initiated Research and Development (R&D) activities for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in West Bengal. The first R & D well has been drilled in Durgapur area of West Bengal. ONGC has been granted Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) for one CBM exploration block in North Raniganj area. The plan outlay for oil and CBM exploration for ONGC in the Ninth Plan Period for West Bengal is Rs. 59.11 crores.

Corrupt Practices in ONGC at Nazira, Assam

1629. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: